

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 23 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

GRAND MTG ATTENDED BY LEADING OFFICIALS HELD HANOI WEDNES-
DAY TO MARK VN ARMY DAY (REUTER HK).

2. THAILAND

PM THANIN IN PHILS SAYS RTG READY EXCHANGE AMBS W/VN IN
EFFORT IMPROVE RELS (UPI, WSTAR 12/22).
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COMMUNIST GUERRILLA GUNFIRE DOWNS COPTER S THAILAND, KILLS
DEP GOV SURATTHANI PROV. LARGE-SCALE OPN BEING CONDUCTED
TO BLUNT COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE (UPI, NYT).

3. PACIFIC ISLANDS

NAURU SWEARS IN BERNARD DOWIYOGO AS NEW PRES TO REPLACE
FOUNDING FATHER HAMMER DEROBURT (NYT; REUTER, PHINQ).

OPEC SIGNING AGREEMENTS PROVIDE INTEREST-FREE LOANS
TOTALING 42.7 MILLION DOL FROM SPEC FUND TO W SAMOA/CENT
AFR REP/GUINEA/PAKISTAN/SRI LANKA/SUDAN (HOFMANN, NYT).

4. AUSTRALIA

COTTON CROP 1976-77 EXPECTED 150,000 TONS, COMPARED TO
LAST SEASON'S 110,600 TONS (CNS, JOC).

5. CHINA

REUTER (PEKING 12/23) REPORTS RELIABLE SOURCES SAID THURS
THAT 3 ADMINISTRATORS HAVE BEEN DETAINED IN EXTENSIVE
SHANGHAI PURGE. IDENTIFIED AS SHANGHAI CP CMTE SECRE-
TARIES MA TIEN-SHUI, HSU CHING-HSIEN, MRS WANG HSIU-CHEN.

6. PHILIPPINES

PRES MARCOS SAID WEDNESDAY THAT 9-POINT AGREEMENT REACHED
WITH MOSLEM REBEL LEADERS, LEAVING ONLY ONE ISSUE UNRE-
SOLVED TO END 4-YEAR-OLD SECESSIONIST WAR (UPI, NYT).
MARCOS DECLINED GIVING DETAILS, SAID GOP EXPECTS REPLY
SHORTLY TO ITS QUERIES, WITH SETTLEMENT SOME ISSUES (REU-
TER MANILA 12/22).

7. SINGAPORE

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LITTLE DOUBT IN THURS GENL ELECTIONS THAT LEE WILL AGAIN
ROUT FRAGMENTED ASSORTMENT LEFTWING PARTIES (REUTER SINGA-
PORE).

8. JAPAN

TAKEO FUKUDA UNANIMOUSLY NAMED LDP PRES THURS IN MOVE THAT
ENSURES DIET ELECTION AS NEW PM (REUTER TOKYO).

DURING WEDNESDAY CHICAGO-PLAINS IN-FLIGHT INTERVIEW, PRES-
ELECT CARTER SAID STILL HOPES MAKE NO TRIPS ABROAD DURING
1ST YR. BUT WILL CONSIDER POSSIBLE SUMMIT MTG MAJOR
NON-COMMUNIST INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS IN JAPAN NEXT YR
(SCOTT, WP).

JAPAN/EEC MAKE LITTLE PROGRESS IN TALKS OVER JAPAN'S
DOMINANCE SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY (REUTER, NYT); BUT DELS
AGREED MEET AGAIN AT PARIS IN NEAR FUTURE (CULLISON,

JOC).

JAPAN'S 6 LEADING OIL FIRMS DECIDE ORGANIZE BUYERS' UNION, IMPORT MORE CRUDE FROM SAUDI ARABIA. MOVE IN RESPONSE 10 PCT PRICE HIKE BY MAJORITY ARAB PRODUCERS (UPI, JOC).

9. KOREA

ASKED COMMENT ON CARTER'S TUES STATEMENT THAT HE WILL CARRY OUT "VERY SLOW, VERY METHODICAL, VERY CAREFUL WITHDRAWAL" US FORCES FROM SK, ROKG FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN HONG IEL THURS DECLINED DIRECT COMMENT ON CARTER'S REMARKS, SAYING HE LACKED FULL TEXT; BUT SAID IN VIEW OF FACT US FORCES IN SK PLAY VITAL ROLE DETERRING POSSIBLE RECURRENCE WAR ON PENINSULA, SEOUL FEELS ANY POLICY CHANGE IN US TROOPS DEPLOYMENT "REQUIRES THE MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION" (REUTER SEOUL).

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ACCORDING SOURCES WHO HEARD HIM ADDRESS TEXAS U CLASS IN EA STUDIES LAST OCT, FORMER STATION CHIEF CIA IN KOREA, DONALD GREGG, ASSERTED PARK GOVT IS INHERENTLY UNSTABLE, THEREFORE JEOPARDIZES US INTERESTS IN SK. NYT'S HALLORAN NOTES GREGG REPORTEDLY SAID CIA HAD CLOSE WORKING RELS WITH KCIA IN TRAINING/OPS DIRECTED AGAINST NK--BUT THAT HE DID NOT LIKE IMPLICATIONS OF THAT CLOSE RELATIONSHIP.

NYT CARRIES "KOREA GINSENG CENTER" AD OF MORE THAN 5 COLUMNS ADVERTISING KOREAN RED GINSENG. CLAIMS THIS YEAR SK EXPORTS GINSENG AND ITS PRODUCTS TOTALLED MORE THAN 52 MILLION DOLS IN 47 COUNTRIES.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

10. KOREA

BUCHWALD (WP) QUIPS THAT HE'S ARRANGED WITH SK EMB TO SEND EACH OF HIS READERS, IN PLAIN WHITE ENVELOPES, SAME AMOUNT MONEY "THEY GAVE MANY OF OUR CONGRESSMEN" DURING PAST FEW YEARS. SAYS ALL READERS NEED DO IN EXCHANGE IS THINK KIND THOUGHTS OF SK, AND "MAKE SURE THEY GET EVERYTHING THEY ASK FOR" FROM US IN COMING YEAR.

11. CHINA

MATHEWS (WP HK) NOTES PEOPLE'S DAILY, IN "MAJOR POLICY SHIFT" WEDNESDAY, SIGNED END OF RESTRAINT IN CAMPAIGN TO PURGE CHIANG CHING'S FOLLOWERS. SEES MOVE AS ANOTHER INDICATION OF NEW PLA INFLUENCE ON PARTY POLICY, ALSO AS

SHOWING RESISTANCE IN SOME QUARTERS TO HUA'S CLAIM THAT MAO DESIGNATED HIM SUCCESSOR.

TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL'S MUNRO OBSERVES OFFICIAL PRC NEWS MEDIA APPEAR SIGNALING REDUCTION IN HUA'S POL STATUS GIVING YEH CHIEN-YING SHARE SPOTLIGHT. SEES HUA EMBROILED
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IN "COMPLICATED POLITICAL CONFLICT" (CSM).

WSTAR'S BRADSHER (12/22) SAYS IMAGE OF PRC AS "ANOTHER SAUDI ARABIA" IN OIL WEALTH MAY BE MIRAGE. CITES JUST-PUBLISHED STUDY BY FEA SPECIALIST WHICH ARGUES THAT RAPID INCREASE CHINESE OIL OUTPUT IS LIMITED BY INVESTMENT CAPITAL SHORTAGE, ECON DEVELOPMENT BOTTLENECKS, AND OTHER PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE INADEQUATE RESERVES TO SUSTAIN HIGH PRODUCTION.

12. INDOCHINA

WP THINKS FINAL REPORT HOUSE MIA CMTE WELL-DONE, OFFERS GROUNDS FOR CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM MUTUAL SATISFACTION WITHIN REACH. BELIEVES REPORT REDUCES DIMENSIONS OF WHAT US SHOULD SEEK IN NEGOT W/VN, SO REDUCES SCOPE OF WHAT HANOI CAN ASK IN RETURN. ADDS MIA CMTE HAS EXCELLENT SUGGESTIONS FOR CARTER: POLICY OF RECIPROCAL "GESTURES" TOO SLOW/UNCERTAIN/SUGGESTIVE OF BLACKMAIL; US SHOULD OPEN DIRECT TALKS TO SEEK "HUMANITARIAN" ACCOUNTING IN CONTEXT FULL NORMALIZATION RELS; VN SHOULD BE MADE UNDERSTAND RECEIVES INDIRECT US HUMANITARIAN AID THRU UN AGENCIES/WE/IMF/ADB, BUT 3.25 BILLION DOLS IN "REPARATIONS" REJECTED. SAYS CMTE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE COURSE OF ACTION THAT PROMISES GREATEST BENEFIT FOR LARGEST NUMBER MIA FAMILIES.

13. SINGAPORE

MORITZ (CSM) BELIEVES LEE WILL REMAIN IN FIRM CONTROL AFTER ELECTIONS, DUE WIDESPREAD APPRECIATION ACHIEVEMENTS/STRONG POL ORGANIZATION. SEES KEY QUESTIONS AS: WILL PAP AGAIN KEEP OPPOSITION PARTIES FROM WINNING SINGLE SEAT IN PARLIAMENT; AND CAN PAP PREVENT OPPOSITION SECURING NEARLY 30 PCT VOTE, AS IN 1972, W/O APPEARING USE MANIPULATION/INTIMIDATION? NOTES LEE'S OPPONENTS SEEK
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FOOTHOLD IN PARLIAMENT BY APPEALING TO CONCERN OVER HIGHER PRICES/DESIRE FOR MORE BENEFITS.

14. JAPAN

SUN'S SEIDEN NOTES ELECTION DEMONSTRATED URGENT NEED FOR LDP REFORM/REVITALIZATION/EMERGENCE FRESH NEW LEADERS, BUT FUKUDA "RELIABLE OLD STANDBY." OPINES BY ABANDONING MIKI, PARTY REJECTED MAN WHO WENT BEYOND LIP SERVICE, TRIED REVITALIZE LDP. REVIEWS FUKUDA'S CAREER, CALLS HIM MASTER OF INTRA-PARTY FEUDING WHICH AT HEART JAPANESE POLITICS.

SAAR (WP) NOTES LEADERSHIP TURNS TO TRADITION IN TIME OF CRISIS. SAYS FUKUDA MUST BOOST FALTERING ECONOMY/RESTORE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN LDP. DESCRIBES/GIVES BACKGROUND FUKUDA; SAYS HANDICAPPED BY AGE/RIGHTWING ASSNS/INDEBTEDNESS TO OTHER PARTY FACTIONS. MENTIONS RUMOR OF BRIBERY RELATIONSHIP BETW ROK, JAPANESE POLITICIANS; ADDS FUKUDA KNOWN BE STRONGLY PRO-SK, SO MIGHT BE VULNERABLE.

15. AUSTRALIA

WSJ CALLS AUSSIE DEVALUATION/TARIFF REDUCTIONS EXPERIMENT THAT WON'T WORK. BELIEVES DEVALUATION WILL CAUSE INCREASE IN PRICE LEVELS, DUE INFLATIONARY EFFECTS; CALLS TARIFF CUTS GOOD IDEA, BUT INSUFFICIENT COUNTERACT DEVALUATION. ADVISES FRASER REVERSE EXPANSIONIST MONETARY POLICY THAT IT ROOT OF PROBLEM. FINDS ENCOURAGING THAT POLICYMAKERS TRYING NOT MAKE SAME MISTAKES TWICE, BUT CRAWLING IN RIGHT DIRECTION W/EXPERIMENTS OF HIGHER QUALITY.

16. GENERAL

CHI S-T (12/20) WELCOMES FRANCE'S DECISION NO LONGER EXPORT NUKE FUEL PROCESSING PLANTS. NOTES, HOWEVER, THIS UNCLASSIFIED

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ONLY REPRESENTS SLIGHT GAIN, SINCE FRG DEAL WITH SK MERELY "POSTPONED," AND PRC REFUSES RECOGNIZE MUKE PROLIFERATION DANGER. KISSINGER

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